

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N.A.
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1. ETUC-SPDNSORED APRIL 5 "WORKERS ACTION DAY". AS
IT IS SHAPING UP, THIS EUROPEAN DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST
UNEMPLOYMENT (REFTELS) WILL BE SUPPORTED BY MOST OF THE
PRINCIPAL SPANISH UNIONS (I.E. SOCIALIST UGT, COMMUNIST-
DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS/CC.OO., INDEPENDENT USO,
BASQUE STV, AND THE MAOIST "UNITARY" UNIONS CSUT AND SU).
LEADING THE WAY, UGT AND CC.OO. HAVE JOINTLY CALLED FOR

NATIONWIDE ONE-HOUR WORK STOPPAGES. LABOR MINISTER CALVO ORTEGA AND INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA MET APRIL 3 WITH NICOLAS REDONDO (UGT SECGEN) AND MARCELINO CAMACHO (CC.OO. SECGEN) FOR PURPOSE DISCUSSING REPERCUSSIONS IN PUBLIC SECTOR. THE TRADE UNION LEADERS INFORMED GOVT THAT THE SIXTY MINUTE STOPPAGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR (INCLUDING AIRLINES, RAILROADS, AND URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS) HAD BEEN PLANNED WITH A VIEW TO CAUSING THE LEAST POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE TO CLIENTS. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE) HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE UGT'S CALL FOR "JOINT ACTION". SOME OBSERVERS ESTIMATE THAT THE APRIL 5 STOPPAGES IN SPAIN COULD CAUSE PRODUCTION LOSSES OF AT LEAST \$125 MILLION. ALTHOUGH THE CC.OO. AND USO ARE ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE AS MUCH "UNITY OF ACTION" AS POSSIBLE, THE UGT AND ESPECIALLY THE BASQUE STV ARE RELUCTANT TO PLAY THAT GAME WITH ITS MANY OBVIOUS PITFALLS.

2. A GOVT DRAFT LAW ON TRADE UNION ACTIVITY IN THE PLANTS -- CURRENTLY IN SUB-COMMITTEE -- HAS DRAWN HEAVY FIRE FROM EMPLOYERS' CIRCLES. AN OPPOSITION MAJORITY IN THE LABOR SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES HAS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN ALTERING CERTAIN ARTICLES WHICH AS NOW WORDED WOULD ALLOW "UNDUE UNION INTERFERENCE IN THE EXECUTIVE FUNCTION OF MANAGEMENT", ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE BANKS
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(RAFAEL TERMES). THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CEOE (EMPLOYERS' UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION) HAS CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 5 TO DISCUSS THIS "THREAT TO A FREE MARKET ECONOMY" WHICH SEEKS "TO INTRODUCE POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION STRUGGLES" INTO THE PLANTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, DURING THE COURSE OF A RECENT LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE IN HONOR OF SENATOR CHURCH, CEOE PRESIDENT CARLOS FERRER TOLD REDONDO THAT IT WAS CRITICAL FOR SPAIN'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING THAT THERE DEVELOP A GOOD AND WORKABLE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM. SOME OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL CURRENTLY IN SUB-COMMITTEE, HE STATED, WOULD ONLY RESULT IN GREATER UNEMPLOYMENT AS MORE AND MORE FIRMS WENT UNDER. WE WOULD NOTE THAT WHEN THE BILL REACHES THE FULL LABOR COMMITTEE, THE GOVT/UCD MAJORITY WILL HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE HOPEFULLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT
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